



## Inspiring Futures Programme

At the end of a busy term, I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on all that has been happening in our **Inspiring Futures Programme** as we help students of each age group consider and prepare for their futures, whether that involves exploring career options, developing practical skills, or considering different pathways. Here's a roundup of what's been happening across the school.

### A New Logo for Inspiring Futures

To enhance recognition of the programme, we've launched a new logo. This will help students and the wider school community identify events and initiatives under the Inspiring Futures banner, from career talks and university guidance to sessions on managing personal finances.

### Highlights by Year Group

- **Year 7:** When making choices about the future, self reflection and self awareness are important attributes. Year 7 students have been exploring the theme "All About Me" in PSHE and have written autobiographies in English. These activities encourage them to reflect on their strengths, experiences, and aspirations.
- **Year 9:** Conversations about GCSE options have started and will continue in more detail next term, with information evenings and consultation evenings to follow in due course.
- **Year 11:** While GCSEs are the priority, students are also giving serious consideration to their post-16 options. This has been supported by PSHE lessons, an information evening introducing Sixth Form opportunities, and individual consultation meetings giving the chance for in depth conversations between students, parents/guardians and members of the teaching staff.
- **Year 13:** Again, whilst preparing for A Level exams is key, members of Year 13 are putting plans in place for when they leave school. Most students have submitted their UCAS applications, if university is their chosen pathway, and are starting to receive university interviews and offers.

Additionally, students in Years 7 to 10 have dedicated tutor times twice per half term focused on topics like entrepreneurship and the pros and cons of different working patterns.

### Unifrog: A Powerful Resource

All students now have access to **Unifrog**, an excellent platform for researching careers, apprenticeships, and university opportunities. Do explore it alongside your daughters to support discussions about future plans.

## One-Off Events and Guest Speakers

This term, students have had the privilege of hearing from a range of professionals:

- Mr. Nash, Senior Marketing and Communications Manager, spoke in assembly about the skills required for marketing, along with the challenges and opportunities in the field. He also talked enthusiastically about running a successful communications strategy.
- Sarah Charles, one of our parent governors, spoke to prospective lawyers and barristers from Year 12 and 13 over a working lunch. The girls found it very interesting to hear about some of the different situations that she has had to deal with, and she gave useful first-hand experience about applying for law.
- During PSHE Day, Katie O'Cearbhaill, also a parent, provided Years 10 to 13 with practical advice on financial resilience, including budgeting, managing personal finances and making choices.

We're immensely grateful to these speakers and to the parents who contribute their expertise. Next term, we'll be reaching out more widely to invite further involvement—watch this space for updates in the New Year!

## GDST Benefits

As part of the GDST network, our students benefit from initiatives like mock interviews, receiving expert help from subject specialists to help girls prepare for their Oxbridge interviews, and the **Careers Start Lectures**, which cover a wide range of topics with insights and helpful advice from many GDST Alumnae.

GDST CAREERSTART ONLINE – SPRING & SUMMER TERM				
We'll be discussing	Date	Time	Organising School(s)	Sign up link
Oxbridge Applications	Tuesday 21 January	7pm – 8pm	Bromley	<a href="#">Sign up here</a>
Careers in Law	February	7pm – 8pm	Oxford and Sydenham	<a href="#">Sign up here</a>
Careers in Veterinary Medicine	Tuesday 4 March	7pm – 8pm	Shrewsbury	<a href="#">Sign up here</a>
Careers in Tech	March	7pm – 8pm	Nottingham	<a href="#">Sign up here</a>
Apprenticeship Applications	Tuesday 6 May	7pm – 8pm	Bromley	<a href="#">Sign up here</a>

## Looking Ahead

The Inspiring Futures Programme will continue to provide resources, opportunities, and inspiration for our students as they plan their next steps. If you have any questions or suggestions, or I can be of assistance to you in anyway please don't hesitate to get in touch

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